

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action¹, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2002/0101711 to Gold (“Gold”); rejected claims 4 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gold; rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gold in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,913,058 to Bonola (“Bonola”); and objected to claim 5 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant traverses these rejections. However, to expedite prosecution and in response to the Examiner’s indication of allowable subject matter in claim 5 (Office Action, p. 7), Applicant has canceled claims 1-4 and 7-10, without prejudice or disclaimer of their subject matter, and amended claim 5 to include the subject matter of claims 1 and 4. Since the Examiner indicated that claim 5 “would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims” (Office Action, p. 7), Applicant submits this amendment renders the application in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

¹ The Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicant declines to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 04329.3297
Application No. 10/814,299

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge
any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:


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for